

We need to move this legislation forward. I want to tell my colleagues that I have a commitment from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee that he will not put a temporary reauthorization on the appropriations bill if we don't reach a resolution of the authorization bill. I have been working on a couple of these issues for now 10 years. I do not intend to see it delayed further. I am committed to seeing this reauthorization take place.

I look forward to working with all of my colleagues in trying to resolve any differences that we might have.

I thank the majority leader for trying to move this legislation at this time. I appreciate the Democrat leader's commitment to working in trying to work this thing out.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for not more than 10 minutes as if in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BASEBALL HISTORY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am fortunate to be a Senator representing the great State of Illinois, the great city of Chicago, at great ballpark named Wrigley Field.

Yesterday afternoon it was my good fortune to see at least part of the very historic game, a game between the Chicago Cubs and the Milwaukee Brewers, which will now be part of baseball history. It was a game attended by 40,846 fans at Wrigley Field, and several hundred of us on the rooftops and around the field watched and marveled. Not only was it a great baseball game with the Cubs' victory, but it was a historic game for a very important person. Any newspaper you picked up in Chicago, or Illinois, or perhaps across the country, this morning let everyone in on the fact that baseball history was made yesterday in Wrigley Field.

Paul Sullivan, a Tribune staff writer for the Chicago Tribune put it in lyric words that I would like to read:

With the shadows creeping over the right field vines, and the crowd on its tiptoes, Sosa took hold of an Eric Plunk fastball in the ninth inning and sent it screaming onto Waveland Avenue for number 62, in the greatest home run chase the game has ever seen.

I was happy to be there and to see home run 62. I am happy to represent the State which has in it such a fine man playing as Sammy Sosa. We are really blessed—those of us who follow baseball—to have this wonderful home run derby, and have two extraordinary individuals involved in it.

Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals also sent 62 home runs this year, eclipsing the record of Babe Ruth, as well as Roger Maris. It is good to know that Mark McGwire is a good person.

He announced early in the season that he would be donating \$1 million of his salary this year for those children who have been physically and sexually abused. He has a heart, and he has shown it many times.

Then there is Sammy Sosa, from the Dominican Republic.

If you will recall the scene last week when Mark McGwire was breaking the record to be the first to do so, there was Sammy Sosa in right field. He could not have been more supportive and more congratulatory. There is a true friendship between the men.

As Mark McGwire received all of this attention and adulation, Sammy was there to cheer him on. Yesterday, Sammy Sosa matched Mark McGwire with 62 home runs. He continued to praise him as a friend and hoped that they both had good luck in this home run derby in the remaining games.

It tells us a lot about baseball. It tells us a lot about these two men.

Sammy Sosa comes from particularly humble beginnings, starting off in the Dominican Republic. One of my favorite quotes during the course of the season is someone went to Sammy Sosa and said, "Aren't you under a lot of stress because of this race for the home run title?" And he said, "You think this is stressful, earning a living as a shoeshine boy in the Dominican Republic is stressful." He put it all in perspective.

He has been gracious and friendly. He has been a true sportsman throughout this race. He deserves our praise and our cheers as well.

All of us watch anxiously for the closing games to see who ends up with the ultimate home run record.

For those of us who are fortunate to love the game and to be watching it closely in 1998, I want to say my hat is off to Mark McGwire and especially to Sammy Sosa, who yesterday with two towering home runs over left field and into Waveland Avenue, really brought Chicago to its feet, cheering this man and all that he stands for.

I am hoping now that they will continue this race to set the record and to put the great American pastime back on its feet. I think they have done a lot for it.

I wish them both the very best. I yield the floor.

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. GORTON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT'S NUMBERED 3582 TO 3590 EN BLOC

Mr. GORTON. Madam President, I send a group of amendments to the desk and ask that they be reported en bloc and considered en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) proposes amendments numbered 3582 to 3590 en bloc.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendments be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments en bloc are as follows:

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3582

Under the heading "Bureau of Indian Affairs", "Construction" on page 33, strike the second proviso.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3583

At the end of Title I, General Provisions, add the following new section:

SEC. . . Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Tribal Self-Governance Act (25 U.S.C. §458aa et seq.) is amended at §458ff(c) by inserting "450c(d)," following the word "sections".

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3584

(Purpose: To adjust the boundaries of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area)

At the end of Title III, add the following new section:

SEC. . . (a) IN GENERAL.—To reflect the intent of Congress set forth in Public Law 98-396, section 4(a)(2) of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act (16 U.S.C. 544(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(2) The boundaries" and inserting the following:

"(2) BOUNDARIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the boundaries"; and (2) by adding at the end of the following:

"(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The scenic area shall not include the approximately 29 acres of land owned by the Port of Camas-Washougal in the South ½ of Section 16, Township 1 North, Range 4 East, and the North ½ of Section 21, Township 1 North, Range 4 East, Willamete Meridian, Clark County, Washington, that consists of—

"(i) the approximately 19 acres of Port land acquired from the Corps of Engineers under the Second Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1984 (Public Law 98-396); and

"(ii) the approximately 10 acres of adjacent Port land to the west of the land described in clause (i)."

(b) INTENT.—The amendment made by the subsection (a)—

(1) is intended to achieve the intent of Congress set forth in Public Law 98-396; and

(2) is not intended to set a precedent regarding adjustment or amendment of any boundaries of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area or any other provisions of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3585

(Purpose: To delete funding for acquisition by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service of the Texas Chenier Plain)

On page 13, line 13, before the period at the end insert the following: ", and of which no amount shall be available for acquisition of the Texas Chenier Plain".

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3586

(Purpose: To direct the Secretary of the Interior to make corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System)

On page 74, after line 20, add the following:

SEC. 1 . CORRECTION TO COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall make such

corrections to the map described in subsection (b) as are necessary to restore on that map the September 30, 1982, boundary for Unit M09 on the portion of Edisto Island located immediately to the south and west of the Jeremy Cay Causeway.

(b) MAP DESCRIBED.—The map described in this subsection is the map included in a set of maps entitled "Coastal Barrier Resources System", dated October 24, 1990, that relates to the unit of the Coastal Barrier Resources System entitled "Edisto Complex M09/M09P".

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, Senator HOLLINGS, on July 31, 1997 introduced a bill that makes a boundary change to Unit M09, Edisto Island, which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. It is my understanding that the amendment he is now offering is identical to your bill. Is that correct?

Mr. HOLLINGS. The Chairman of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is correct. The amendment before us is identical to S. 1104.

Mr. CHAFEE. Could the Senator please explain why the circumstances surrounding this issue are unique?

Mr. HOLLINGS. Certainly, unit M09 has been part of the coastal barrier system since the passage of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act in 1982. In 1987, a portion of Edisto Island was annexed by Colleton County from Charleston County. In 1988, after public notice and comment, the Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that this unit be expanded to include additional areas on Edisto Island. The Fish and Wildlife Service was not advised that a jurisdictional transfer had occurred and provided maps relating to Edisto Island to Charleston County, rather than Colleton. Because Colleton County did not have the appropriate maps, they provided inaccurate maps to landowners at a time when significant economic development were being made.

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, the Committee on Environment and Public Works favorably reported out this bill last May. The area in question was correctly mapped as an undeveloped coastal barrier, but extraordinary miscommunication at the Federal, State and local levels failed to ensure that the appropriate maps were being provided to the public. As a result, when the landowner inquired from Colleton County about the status of his land with respect to the Coastal Barrier Resources System, he was given inaccurate information. The sole reason that we supported the changes made by Senator HOLLINGS' bill was because of the unprecedented and unique procedural circumstances in this case, and we do not anticipate that there would be other instances that would warrant similar changes. The law only requires Coastal Barrier Resources System maps to be on file at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and reporting this bill does not imply that landowners should rely on maps filed at any other location to determine whether or not their property is located within the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

AMENDMENT NO. 3587

On page 74, after line 20, add the following:

**SEC. 1. LAND EXCHANGE IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND.**

Section 135 of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1998 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(g) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, COMPLIANCE WITH LAW.—As a condition of the exchange of property under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

"(1) prepare an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and

"(2) comply with all other applicable laws (including regulations) and rules relating to property transfers."

Mr. SARBANES. Madam President, I am pleased to join with my colleague Senator MIKULSKI in sponsoring this amendment to require the Secretary of the Interior to prepare an environmental impact statement and comply with all other applicable laws, rules and regulations related to property transfers before engaging in a land exchange near Oxon Creek in Prince Georges County and the District of Columbia.

Section 135 of the Interior Appropriations Act of 1998 directs the Secretary of the Interior, to "accept full title to approximately 84 acres of land located in Prince Georges County, Maryland, adjacent to Oxon Cove Park, and \* \* \* in exchange \* \* \* convey to the Corrections Corporation of America all of the interest of the United States in approximately 42 acres of land located in Oxon Cove Park in the District of Columbia." "notwithstanding any other provision of law." The language directing this exchange was inserted at the eleventh hour in the Conference Report on the Interior Appropriations bill with no prior hearings or consideration, no opportunity for debate, no input from the National Park Service or the area Congressional Delegation and no consultation with the affected communities. It circumvented every procedure and process by which land exchanges normally take place. The only conditions placed on the transaction were that the property would not have environment contamination and that it be a fair market value exchange or equalized in value by a cash payment from CCA.

Since the enactment of the Interior Appropriations bill, the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) has filed an application with the District of Columbia Zoning Commission to build a 2,200 bed prison on the 42 acre National Park site to house portions of the District of Columbia's inmate population. This facility is strongly opposed by local residents who have raised serious concerns about both the planned location of the prison and the propriety of bypassing National Park Service land exchange and environmental compliance guidelines which allow for public input. Department of the Interior officials have stated that "absent public review, which NPS has been precluded to conduct by statute, it is not clear

that the location of a prison on the current parcel of park land would be in the best interest of the public. Further, the legislated land exchange with CCA does not afford equal opportunity to all potential bidders to provide a nearby inmate facility for felons of the District of Columbia."

It is important to point out that the National Park Service's Oxon Cove property has been planned as the site of a public golf course and a hiker-biker trail—recreational facilities urgently needed in great demand by the local community. They are a key component of an overall effort to revitalize the area and enhance the quality of life for local residents. These public facilities would largely be displaced by the CCA prison. Moreover, development of a correctional facility on this site would likely have adverse environmental impacts on Oxon Cove and on the Potomac River which was recently designated as an American Heritage River. In addition, it is my understanding that the CCA owned property in Prince Georges County is mostly wetlands and has no access and consequently the land swap is hardly a "fair market value" exchange.

The amendment which Senator MIKULSKI and I are offering will ensure that no legislated land exchange can be consummated unless and until the exchange has been reviewed in accordance with the procedures customary for such land exchange proposals including: an Environmental Impact Statement in accord with the National Environmental Policy Act; a determination by the Secretary of the Interior that the land is suitable for exchange under the criteria normally used for such exchanges; an evaluation of whether the land exchange is in the best interests of the public and the National Park Service; an opportunity for public hearings and input; a review of the NPS General Management Plan for the property and scrutiny by the National Capital Planning Commission. It is my firm conviction that this legislated land exchange should never have been enacted. We hold this property and all of our Nation's lands in public trust and it my hope that the amendment we are offering will help preserve that trust as well as citizens' rights to due process and having their concerns heard. I urge adoption of this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 3588

(Purpose: To modify Section 121 of the bill regarding wildland fire management in Alaska)

On page 59, line 25, insert between the words "Alaska" and "prior" the following: "for assignment to a Type I hot shot crew that previously has been certified and listed in the Bureau of Land Management 1998 Interagency National Mobilization Guide,".

AMENDMENT NO. 3589

S. 2237 is hereby amended as follows:

At page 19, line 20, add the following after the word "program": "and of which \$4,400,000 shall be available for the Katmai National Park Land Exchange".

At the appropriate place insert the following new section:

**SEC. XXX. KATMAI NATIONAL PARK LAND EXCHANGE.**

(a) RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.—

(1) RATIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The terms, conditions, procedures, covenants, reservations, and other provisions set forth in the document entitled "Agreement for the Sale, Purchase and Conveyance of Lands between the Heirs, Designees and/or Assigns of the Palakia Melgenak and the United State of America" (hereinafter referred to in this section at the "Agreement"), executed by its signatories, including the heirs, designees and/or assigns of Palakia Melgenak (hereinafter referred to in this section as the "Heirs") effective on September 1, 1998 are authorized, ratified and confirmed, and set forth the obligations and commitments of the United States and all other signatories, as a matter of federal law.

(B) NATIVE ALLOTMENT.—Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, all lands described in section 2(c) of the Agreement for conveyance to the Heirs shall be deemed a replacement transaction under "An Act to relieve restricted Indians in the Five Civilized Tribes whose nontaxable lands are required for State, county or municipal improvements or sold to other persons or for other purposes" (25 U.S.C. 409a, 46 Stat. 1471), as amended, and the Secretary shall convey such lands by a patent consistent with the terms of the Agreement and subject to the same restraints on alienation and tax-exempt status as provided for native allotments pursuant to "An Act authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to allot homesteads to the natives of Alaska" (34 Stat. 197), as amended, repealed by section 18(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (85 Stat. 710), with a savings clause for applications pending on December 18, 1971.

(C) LAND ACQUISITION.—Lands and interests in land acquired by the United States pursuant to the Agreement shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") as part of the Katmai National Park, subject to the laws and regulations applicable thereto.

(2) MAPS AND DEEDS.—The maps and deeds set forth in the Agreement generally depict the lands subject to the conveyances, the retention of consultation rights, the conservation easement, the access rights, Alaska Native Allotment Act status, and the use and transfer restrictions.

(b) KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE WILDERNESS.—Upon the date of closing of the conveyance of the approximately 10 acres of Katmai National Park Wilderness lands to be conveyed to the Heirs under the Agreement, the following lands shall hereby be designated part of the Katmai Wilderness as designated by section 701(4) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation (16 U.S.C. 1132 note; 94 Stat. 2417):

A strip of land approximately one half mile long and 165 feet wide lying within Section 1, Township 24 South, Range 33 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, the center line of which is the center of the unnamed stream from its mouth at Geographic Harbor to the north line of said Section 1. Said unnamed stream flows from the unnamed lake located in Sections 25 and 26, Township 23 South, Range 33 West, Seward Meridian. This strip of land contains approximately 10 acres.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATION.—None of the funds appropriated in this Act or any other Act hereafter enacted for the implementation of the Agreement may be expended until the Secretary determines that the Heirs have signed a valid and full relinquishment and release of any and all claims described in section 2(d) of the Agreement.

(d) GENERAL PROVISIONS.—

(1) All of the lands designated as Wilderness pursuant to this section shall be subject to any valid existing rights.

(2) Subject to the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the Secretary shall ensure that the lands in the Geographic Harbor area not directly affected by the Agreement remain accessible for the public, including its mooring and mechanized transportation needs.

(3) The Agreement shall be placed on file and available for public inspection at the Alaska Regional Office of the National Park Service, at the office of the Katmai National Park and Preserve in King Salmon, Alaska, and at least one public facility managed by the federal, state or local government located in each of Homer, Alaska, and Kodiak, Alaska and such other public facilities which the Secretary determines are suitable and accessible for such public inspections. In addition, as soon as practicable after enactment of this provision, the Secretary shall make available for public inspection in those same offices, copies of all maps and legal descriptions of lands prepared in implementing either the Agreement or this section. Such legal descriptions shall be published in the Federal Register and filed with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate.

**AMENDMENT NO. 3590**

Purpose: To provide that the Bureau of Land Management may enter into watershed restoration and enhancement agreements with the same entities and for the same purposes as is provided in section 323 of the bill for Forest Service agreements.

On page 74, after line 20, add the following:

**SEC. 1 . WATERSHED RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENTS.**

Section 124(a) of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1997 (16 U.S.C. 1011(a)) is amended by striking "with willing private landowners for restoration and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other biotic resources on public or private land or both" and inserting "with the heads of other Federal agencies, tribal, State, and local governments, private and nonprofit entities, and landowners for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and other resources on public or private land and the reduction of risk from natural disaster where public safety is threatened".

Mr. GORTON. Madam President, it was a week ago tomorrow early in the afternoon that the Senate began consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. The distinguished Senator from West Virginia, Mr. BYRD, and I made our opening statements. We passed a handful of agreed amendments, and since then the entire subject matter has dealt with matters totally extraneous to that Interior appropriations bill. According to the minority leader's action, we will have another such extraneous amendment tomorrow. But in the closing of this evening, I do have this set of amendments, all of which relate to the subject of the bill.

The first is by Senator CAMPBELL on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which strikes certain language in the bill on the subject of the use of highway trust funds.

The second, of which I am a sponsor, also on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is an amendment to the Tribal Self-Governance Act to require the repayment of misused Federal funds by self-governance tribes.

The third one of mine is a minor boundary modification at the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The fourth also is one of mine for the Fish and Wildlife Service which prohibits the use of funds for land acquisition at Texas Chenier Plain.

The fifth, by Senator HOLLINGS, to which the colloquy applies, makes amendments to the Coastal Barrier Resource System maps in South Carolina.

The sixth, by the two Senators from Maryland, is a modification of section 135 of the fiscal year 1998 Interior appropriations bill on the subject of the Oxon Cove land exchange.

The next is by Senator STEVENS which clarifies section 121, re: "hot-shot" crews—that is to say, forest firefighting crews—in Alaska.

The next, also by Senator STEVENS, provides for exchange of lands in Katmai National Park.

And, the last by Senator WYDEN of Oregon gives the Bureau of Land Management authority to enter into the watershed restoration and enhancement agreements to the same extent that the Forest Service can do so.

With that, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments (Nos. 3582 to 3590) were agreed to.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

**GOOSE DEPREDAATION**

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, the wintering Canada goose population has increased ten times in the last twenty years, to 250,000 geese in the Lower Columbia River and Willamette Valley regions. The result has been large numbers of geese grazing on private agricultural fields of wheat, corn, grass seed, and many other crops, leading to huge financial losses for farmers. Farmers have been meeting since the early 1980s with local wildlife officials to create coordinated resource management plans to relieve depredation, but with no results. In 1997, the first Pacific Flyway Council plan was assembled to deal with agricultural depredation by migratory Canada geese. Farmers met with state and federal wildlife officials and other interested parties from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and California to create a plan that all parties could agree to—as a first step. This funding will implement some of the priorities of that plan.

Mr. WYDEN. I thanked the Chairman for helping us in the Northwest to address a serious, growing problem with a tremendous overpopulation of geese in the Pacific Northwest. During the course of the past year the Oregon and Washington Farm Bureaus, the Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Committee, and state and federal wildlife agencies have worked together on a plan to address this growing problem, and I appreciate the Chairman's help in funding this proposal. Mr. President, the

Oregon and Washington Farm Bureaus have provided critical leadership in helping us obtain these funds, and I wonder if the Chairman of the Subcommittee would engage in a colloquy about how these funds are to be spent.

Mr. GORTON. Of course, as the senior Senator from Oregon mentioned, this issue is a serious concern of many of my constituents in the southwestern part of my state. I am delighted to have been able to provide funds from this year's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service budget to develop a solution to this problem affecting both of our states.

Mr. WYDEN. Is it the Chairman's understanding that at least \$152,000 would be directed to fund a study of the economic impact of goose grazing and to develop the most effective methods for reducing damage by Canada Geese; and that the remaining funds will be used to assess, monitor, and reduce depredation by Canadian Geese of agricultural crops in Washington State and Oregon?

Mr. GORTON. The gentleman from Oregon is correct. The \$152,000 of study money will be used to continue ongoing studies at Oregon State University and has strong support among farmers in both our states.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Further, is it the Chairman's understanding that the Committee directs the monies be allocated by and based upon the consensus of the Canada Goose Agricultural Depredation Working Group, comprised of, but not limited to, one person from each of the following: Washington and Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services; and an agricultural representative each from Washington and Oregon?

Mr. GORTON. Yes. I understand that this group, which is composed of a diverse array of impacted interests, recently received approval for the NW Oregon/SW Washington Canada Goose Agricultural Depredation Control Plan which provides a foundation for many depredation reduction programs. I am very impressed by the work of this group and am delighted that it will have sufficient flexibility to develop solutions to this problem.

#### CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I would like to thank the many Senators who have demonstrated a commitment to historic Civil War battlefield preservation which culminated in this amendment to the Interior Appropriations Bill that directs \$10 million be made available for matching grants to States and local communities for Civil War Battlefield preservation. I especially want to thank Senators LOTT and GORTON for their efforts over the past several months as well as my long time ally in this issue, Senator JEFFORDS.

Battlefield preservation is essential to allow current and future generations to experience the powerful lessons these places convey about the past, present, and future of the United States. A battlefield's landscape speaks

beyond written accounts and motion picture and television recreations. The remarkable story of our country's struggle for independence cannot be compellingly told or wholly understood without these sites. The need to protect these sites of heroism and sacrifice has never been more acute. Today, residential, commercial, and industrial development threaten significant battle sites in many states.

A Congressional study of the nation's Civil War sites completed in 1993, found that 20% of the most important sites had already been lost and an additional 50% would be lost in the next ten years without concerted action. The report specifically recommended that \$70 million be made available over a 7 year period for matching grants to aid land acquisition efforts. This amendment would for the first time provide a \$10 million installment for this purpose.

The premise behind this amendment is simple: Congress must provide funds to leverage nonfederal resources to preserve endangered battlefields. These funds are an investment in our national heritage, an investment that will pay dividends not just for our towns and states, but for the entire country and for generations to come.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GORTON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, September 11, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,547,277,485,008.59 (Five trillion, five hundred forty-seven billion, two hundred seventy-seven million, four hundred eighty-five thousand, eight dollars and fifty-nine cents).

One year ago, September 11, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,414,576,000,000 (Five trillion, four hundred fourteen billion, five hundred seventy-six million).

Twenty-five years ago, September 11, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$460,119,000,000 (Four hundred sixty billion, one hundred nineteen million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,087,158,485,008.59 (Five trillion, eighty-seven billion, one hundred fifty-eight million, four hundred eighty-five thousand, eight dollars and fifty-nine cents) during the past 25 years.

#### HANOI TAXI

Mr. DEWINE. Madam President, this week, Americans across the country will be participating in events to pay tribute to Americans Missing in Action and former Prisoners of War (MIAs/

POWs). With that in mind, I would like to talk about an event that took place on February 12th, 1973. On that date, a United States Air Force C-141 landed at the Gia Lam Airport in Hanoi, North Viet Nam. The crew's mission was to pick up and return to the United States the first American POWs from Viet Nam. This historic mission signaled the beginning of the end of a period of uncertainty for many American POWs and their families. The flight for freedom from captivity came to a joyous conclusion when the aircraft carrying these soldiers landed at Hickham Air Force Base, Hawaii, where for the first time in many years, the former POWs once again stepped proudly and honorably onto American soil.

On that day in February 1973, the tail number of the aircraft dispatched to Gia Lam was 660177. As the primary cargo aircraft for the Air Force at that time, the C-141, and specifically aircraft 660177, had flown cargo missions in support of U.S. operations in Viet Nam. To this day, many of the former POWs that were on board that first freedom flight still remember the tail number—660177. In tribute to the historic mission competed by this particular aircraft, flight crew members informally named the aircraft the "Hanoi Taxi."

Following the conclusion of activities in Viet Nam, the "Hanoi Taxi" continued to serve the Air Force as a cargo aircraft. Throughout the years, the role this aircraft played in our military history went largely unnoticed.

In 1992, aircraft 660177, was assigned to the 445th Airlift Wing of the United States Air Force Reserve at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. At that time, members from the maintenance squadron of the 445th Airlift Wing noticed the words "Hanoi Taxi" on a label above the flight engineer's panel. M/Sgt. Dave Dillon became very interested in this unusual appearance and with the assistance of T/Sgt. Henry Harlow, S/Sgt. Jeff Wittman and T/Sgt. Susan Denlinger, they worked to piece together the story behind the name. When they learned of the historic mission that gave aircraft 660177 the name "Hanoi Taxi", personnel from the 445th Airlift Wing began the process of transforming the aircraft into a flying tribute to honor those former Prisoners of War and those that are still Missing in Action.

Today, nose art on the "Hanoi Taxi" represents the emblem of the 4th Allied Prisoner of War Wing and a plaque adorns a position of high visibility near the flight deck honoring the first 40 individuals that made that first flight from Hanoi on February 12, 1973. In addition, photographs of the historic mission are placed throughout the aircraft to allow those passing through the cabin to see those brave individuals who were forced to surrender their own freedom to protect ours.

For many of the POW's that were on board the "Hanoi Taxi", some of the